

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 010972
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:WBRUBECK/HLK
APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY
S/S-0 S VALERGA
NEA:ALATHERTON

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Z O 140546Z JAN 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV FLASH
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM FLASH
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 010972

EXDIS-HANDLE AS NODIS FOR AMB FROM THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, XF, US

SUBJECT: AGENDA FOR JERUSALEM TALKS

REF: TEL AVIV 0628

1. IF WE ARE GOING TO GET THE AGENDA ISSUE BEHIND US, WE CANNOT GO TO SADAT ON SUNDAY WITH LANGUAGE ON POINT B SUCH AS "INHABITANTS OF THE WEST BANK AND GAZA" WHICH BEGIN HAS SPECIFIED AS RULING OUT IN ADVANCE ANY DISCUSSION OF THE STATUS OR ULTIMATE DISPOSITION OF THE TERRITORIES. IF BEGIN INSISTS ON THIS POINT AFTER HIS REPEATED ASSURANCES THAT "EVERYTHING IS NEGOTIABLE" WE WILL BE IN A VERY SERIOUS POSITION.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 010972

2. IF NECESSARY, THEREFORE, YOU SHOULD URGE ON BEGIN THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

--HIS POSITION ON "DISPOSITION OF THE TERRITORIES" IS PROPERLY ONE HE SHOULD PUT TO THE EGYPTIANS IN THE MEETING, NOT SOMETHING TO BE DEALT WITH AS AN AGENDA HEADING.

--HE MUST KNOW THAT THE EGYPTIANS WILL WANT TO RAISE
POINTS DEALING WITH THE TERRITORIES AND WILL CERTAINLY NOT

ACCEPT AN AGENDA THAT RULES OUT ANY SUCH DISCUSSION.

--THE WORDING OF THE AGENDA ITEM WE PROPOSE IS ABSOLUTELY
NEUTRAL. IT PERMITS BOTH THE ISRAELIS AND EGYPTIANS
TO TAKE THEIR OWN POSITIONS AND PREJUDGES NOTHING.

--THE SECRETARY SEES LITTLE POINT IN HIS TRAVELING TO JE-
RUSALEM FOR A PROLONGED NEGOTIATION OVER THE AGENDA.

3. WE CANNOT, OF COURSE, GUARANTEE SADAT'S AGREEMENT TO
THIS FORMULATION. IT HAS ALREADY BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY RE-
VISED TO TRY TO ACCOMMODATE BEGIN'S VIEWS AND SADAT WILL
KNOW THAT. WE WILL, HOWEVER, TRY TO GET SADAT'S ACCEPT-
ANCE IF BEGIN WILL ACCEPT THIS FORMULATION. WE ARE AT THE
POINT WHERE BOTH SIDES ARE GOING TO HAVE TO SHOW SOME FLEX-
IBILITY ON AGENDA AND SAVE THEIR SUBSTANTIVE POSITIONS FOR
THE MEETING, RATHER THAN TRY TO FORECLOSE MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE
ISSUES BY AGENDA LANGUAGE. WE ARE TRYING TO GET SOME FUR-
THER ACCOMMODATION FROM SADAT BUT BEGIN IS GOING TO HAVE
TO HELP A BIT.

4. YOU MAY DRAW ON ALL THE ABOVE AS YOU SEE FIT. VANCE
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PAGE 03 STATE 010972

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